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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 5 December 1973

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1. [redacted] Guy McConnell, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, called from a markup session on the Defense appropriations bill to say Chairman McClellan asked him to get from us a statement as to how many personnel of the intelligence community have been cut in a significant timeframe in past years. (McConnell mentioned Dr. Hall's statement about this at the meeting yesterday.) He said the Chairman also wants a statement containing as much as can be said on the Senate floor as to how much the House and Senate have cut from the intelligence community budget without actually using the dollar figures. He said he needs these statements by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow. [redacted] is drawing up these statements.

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2. [redacted] Jim Woolsey, General Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, called to say that he has received several inquiries today from staff members about pressure they have gotten from the press about the identities of CIA contacts within the news media. Kathy Nelson, on Senator Symington's staff, called him earlier today and he referred her to us. This afternoon Edd Jussely, Press Assistant to Senator John Stennis, called Woolsey and told him that apparently members of the Washington Post and New York Times are greeting their colleagues with the statement that their papers do not employ CIA agents and they ask their colleagues about their organizations. A representative of CBS, who is a close friend of Senator Stennis, has asked Jussely if he can find out whether there are any CIA contacts in CBS and if so who they are. Woolsey said as far as he knows Stennis has not been brought into this but Woolsey would like whatever response we would suggest that Jussely make to this inquiry.

After discussing this matter with Messrs. Thuermer and Maury and then with the Director, I suggested to Woolsey that Jussely respond to his query by saying the Agency just cannot respond to this inquiry and suggest further that Jussely point out to his contact that just as the press feels it is necessary to protect their sources, the Agency must also protect the confidential nature of its relationships. Woolsey thought this was a good point to make. I also made clear to him that just as in any other matter, the Director would be happy to come down and provide the information to Senator Stennis for his own information.

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